

MOTION NO. M2017-126
FTA Environmental Review Assistance Consulting Services

MEETING:	DATE:	TYPE OF ACTION:	STAFF CONTACT:
Capital Committee	10/12/2017	Cancelled	Don Billen, Acting PEPD Executive Director
Board	10/26/2017	Final Action	Perry Weinberg, Director, Environmental Affairs and Sustainability Kent Hale, Environmental Planning Manager

PROPOSED ACTION

Authorizes the chief executive officer to execute a contract with Anchor QEA, LLC to provide the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) with FTA environmental review assistance consulting services for Sound Transit’s capital program in the amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.

KEY FEATURES SUMMARY

- The proposed action will authorize the consultant to conduct FTA Environmental Review Assistance consulting services.
- The consultant will be responsible for assisting Sound Transit and FTA in reviewing and finalizing environmental documentation prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The consultant will also assist in consultation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Section 4(f) and other consultation with tribes and resource agencies as required by the FTA.
- The contract scope includes:
 - Project management and administration of work assignments that will be coordinated between Sound Transit, FTA and the consultant; and
 - Environmental Review and coordination where the consultant will support FTA Region 10 staff with its review of Sound Transit environmental documents.
- This action funds and authorizes services for five years, with an option to extend another five years.

BACKGROUND

Sound Transit plans to prepare a large body of environmental documentation related to its capital program over the next several years. The Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) timely and efficient review of Sound Transit’s environmental documentation is a critical element in keeping projects on schedule. The FTA must also balance its workload between all grantees in Region 10, with limited staff. To that end, Sound Transit intends to assist the FTA consistent with provisions of the FAST Act. The FAST Act allows grantees to provide FTA assistance consistent with provisions for “efficient environmental reviews for project decision making” (23 U.S.C) § 139(j)). This action aligns with Sound Transit’s goals for accelerating project delivery expressed in the System Expansion Implementation Plan.

This action will allow Sound Transit to hire a consultant firm to act as adjunct staff to the FTA. Key personnel from the firm will review and help process environmental documentation associated with Sound Transit’s capital program. The nature of such an arrangement requires that key personnel accepting such assignments work independently from Sound Transit. The consultant will coordinate with Sound Transit routinely, but will work under direction of the FTA Region 10 Administrator in

accordance with Sound Transit's agreement with FTA regarding this service. Key personnel may be co-located part- or full-time in FTA's Region 10 office in Seattle.

PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

- On June 13, 2017, the Agency solicited proposals for FTA Environmental Review Assistance Consulting Services through a competitive Request for Proposals process.
- Sound Transit received five proposals.
- After proposals were received, Sound Transit's evaluation team conducted its review of all proposals in accordance with the evaluation criteria published within the RFP. Based on the Knowledge and Current Experience of Key Individuals, Price, Capacity and Project Organization and Project Approach, Firm Experience and History and Commitment to and Compliance with Equal Employment Opportunity Law, Sound Transit team determined that Anchor QEA, LLC's proposal is the response that best meets the evaluation criteria, offered the best value and is in the best interest of Sound Transit.

FISCAL INFORMATION

This contract would be used for consulting services to support FTA Region 10 staff with their review of environmental documentation associated with Sound Transit' system expansion projects. The consulting services described in this proposed action will be assigned on an as-needed basis after available budget is verified. Since the proposed services will be assigned on an as-needed basis, the distribution of cost will be determined as project schedules require.

SMALL BUSINESS/DBE PARTICIPATION

Sound Transit promotes and encourages small business participation, which also includes Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs). Small Business and DBE goals are based upon an examination of subcontracting opportunities contained in the work of this contract and the number of Small Businesses/DBEs available to perform such subcontracting work.

Sound Transit determined that there were few Small Business and DBE subcontracting opportunities based upon the work described in this contract, so Small Business/DBE goals were not established.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Not applicable to this action.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

This contract would assist FTA in reviewing Sound Transit environmental documentation that has already been submitted and additional documentation anticipated for submittal in November. A one month delay could limit FTA's ability to review this documentation in a timely and efficient manner.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

SSK 10/5/17

LEGAL REVIEW

AJP 10/19/2017

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A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract with Anchor QEA, LLC to provide the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) with FTA environmental review assistance consulting services for Sound Transit's capital program in the amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.

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MOTION:

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the chief executive officer is authorized to execute a contract with Anchor QEA, LLC to provide the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) with FTA environmental review assistance consulting services for Sound Transit's capital program in the amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on October 26, 2017.



Fred Butler
Board Chair Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator